

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01220 072133Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 EB-11 NIC-01

CU-04 PPT-02 SCA-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /062 W

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R 072117Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2673

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 1220

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CU VE

SUBJECT: "TOURIST TOURS" TO CUBA

1. FROM NEWS SOURCES SEVERAL DAYS AGO, USIS LEARNED THAT TWO TEN-DAY "TOURIST TOURS" TO CUBA ARE SCHEDULED THIS MONTH AND NEXT UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED ASOCIACION VENEZOLANADE PRENSA, SPECIFICALLY ITS INSTITUTO DE PREVISION SOCIAL DEL PERIODISTA. ADVERTISING HAS NOW APPEARED IN CARACAS NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCING THE TRIPS--ONE FOR CARNIVAL.

2. PRESS SOURCES TELL US THE TRAVELERS WILL BE TRANSPORTED IN SPECIAL FLIGHTS OF CUBANA DE AVIACION, THOUGH OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT NECESSARY FLIGHT CLEARANCES HAVE NOT YET BEEN GRANTED.

3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN A SMALL BUT STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CUBA AND VENEZUELA. EXCHANGES HAVE INCLUDED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SPORTS TEAMS, TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS--CONTACTS AIMED AT EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH CUBA AT WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI HAS CALLED THE "HUMAN LEVEL."

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01220 072133Z

4. THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE, HOWEVER, OF A TOURIST
PROMOTION OPENLY PUBLICIZED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
(WE UNDERSTAND APPLICANTS ARE BEING CAREFULLY SCREENED
WITH PREFERENCE GIVEN TO PERSONS OF LEFTIST PERSUASION.)
SIGNIFICANTLY, BOTH TRIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO END BY MARCH 10,
JUST AS COPEI LEAVES OFFICE.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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